FILM. KATIE HOLMES TALKS 'DAWSON'S CREEK'

THE ACTRESS IS BACK ON THE SCREEN IN "THE GIVER." PAGES 14-15

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WebMD won't cure your illness

PAGE 17

Study finds hope for dropouts

PAGE 18

Husband confesses to strangling wife

Crime. Police said Christopher Murray killed his wife, a veteran, in a fit of rage over ongoing marital issues. Her body was found in Pennypack Park on Aug. 6. Murray attempted to cover up the murder before confessing. PAGE 04

Franklin Field of dreams

PAGE 02

Forty-four years after the Eagles last played a regular season game at Franklin Field, the masses return for a glimpse of nostalgia. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER

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1 NEWS

By the numbers

28K

Eagles fans at the training camp at Franklin Field

Top 3

What's trending online at Metro.us

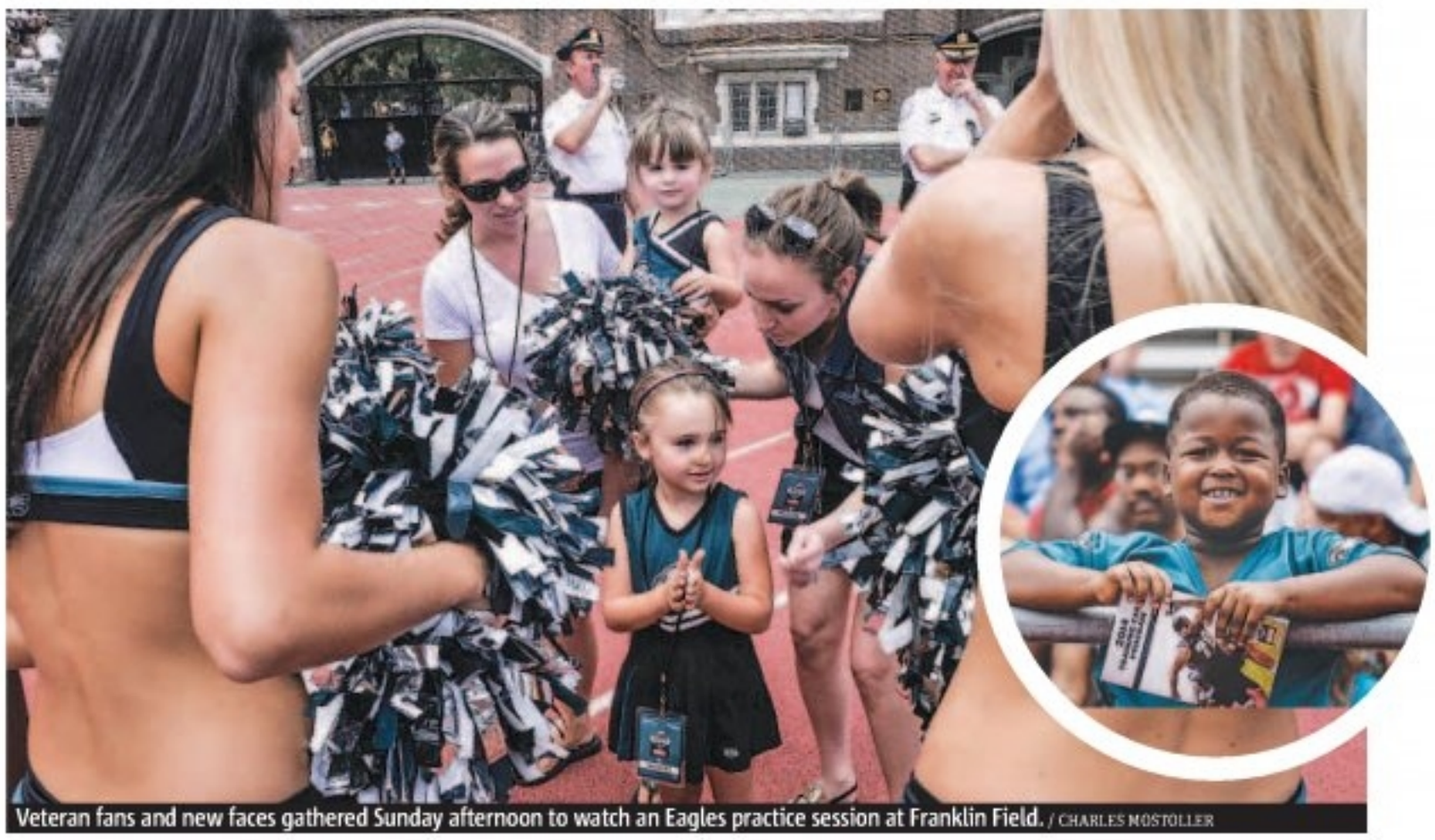
1 'VIDEO: Rex Ryan plays joke on reporters, asks them questions instead'

2 'VIDEO: Black bear walks around New Jersey neighborhood on hind legs'

3 'VIDEO: Woman tries to offer aggressive cat for free'

Remembering the good times at Franklin Field

University City. Thousands returned to Franklin Field at the University of Pennsylvania to celebrate the past.



Veteran fans and new faces gathered Sunday afternoon to watch an Eagles practice session at Franklin Field. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Bob Cohen pointed to the horseshoe-shaped brick stadium on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania. And then he pointed at his son.

"I took him, 50 years ago, here, for his first game," Bob said.

His son, Scott David Cohen, 51, has been going to Eagles games with his father for 46 years.

"It's funny," Bob said. "You have memories of coming into Franklin Field. I remember, and he remembers, walking along rail road tracks coming up here."

"And I was 5 years old," Scott said, "holding his hand, walking along the side of the railroad tracks coming into the stadium. I remember that."

"That's how you came back then," Bob said.

At last count, 28,000 fans drove and took public transportation to Franklin Field on Sunday afternoon to revel in the nostalgia and see the Philadelphia Eagles once again inhabit the stadium where the team played for 12 years (1958 to 1970).

For the first time in 44 years, the Eagles took to the field, if only for a practice, where the franchise won its last world championship in 1960.

Bob, a season ticket holder since 1962, didn't attend the 1960 Championship game at the stadium. "I saw it on television," he said.

"But," Scott added, "he was at the first Monday Night Football game here."

"We had four tickets on the 50-yard-line. And it was freezing!" Bob said. "It was below 10 degrees."

And the wind "was whipping around" the curved space.

"My wife, and a very dear friend of mine, his wife, couldn't take it anymore," he said. "At halftime they left."

Franklin Field, which was built in 1895 and rebuilt in 1922, is home to the first-ever football radio broadcast, the first telecast and, of course, home to the only loss on legendary Green Bay Packers coach Vince Lombardi's playoff record.

And it was also known for its wooden benches.

"When we came, it had wooden seats," Bob said.

"It's aluminum, now," Scott added.

A sly smile crept across Bob's face. "Well, they were wooden," he said. "And you got splinters."

TOMMY ROWAN
@tommyrowan
tommy.rowan@metro.us

The history

Franklin Field is considered the oldest football stadium still in use, per the NCAA.

- When it was built in 1895, it included the nation's first scoreboard.
- It was also home to the country's first two-tiered stadium.
- The field was built in 1895 for a cost of $100,000.

Visit **Metro.us** for more pictures from practice at Franklin Field.

Quoted

"I remember, and he remembers, walking along railroad tracks coming up here."
Bob Cohen

South Philly. Cops link gunshots to two bodies found in home

Two people were found dead inside a South Philadelphia home Sunday morning, and police believe it may have been a double murder, reports said.

According to NBC10, two bodies were found inside a home on the 2400 block of South Hutchinson Street.

Neighbors reported hearing gunshots, and a few witnesses said they saw two men exiting the home shortly after the gunshots were fired, according to the news outlet.

The two men apparently ran to a vehicle, attempted to start it and, after repeatedly failing, took off running. METRO

New Jersey

Dog thrown from moving car window

A dog was seriously injured Saturday afternoon after it was thrown out of a moving car on the Garden State Parkway, reports said.

According to the Asbury Park Press, police are looking for the motorist who allegedly tossed a brown, female mixed terrier out of a car window around 1 p.m. while driving along the Parkway's southbound express lane.

The terrier was hit by a passing car, which caused severe injuries, near exit 116 in Holmdel Township, according to the newspaper.

Someone pulled the dog out of traffic and called police.

The dog is undergoing treatment at a local veterinary hospital, the newspaper reported.

Parkway sign / WIKI COMMONS

Police are offering a $1,000 reward for information. METRO

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South Jersey

Driver attacked after crash

After Chandra Martin, 41, was fatally struck around 7 p.m. Saturday by a Ford Expedition while crossing Route 88 in Lakewood, friends and family from her nearby home severely beat the car's driver, the Asbury Park Press reported.

When driver Juan C. Gregorio-Chacon, 26, got out to check on Martin, friends and relatives from Martin's house came out and attacked him. SAM NEWHOUSE

Feltonville

Four hurt in shootout

Four men were shot near Wyoming and Whitaker Avenues Saturday night, including one in the head, during an argument, reports say. Two are in custody. METRO

Police: Husband's 'rage' pushed him to murder wife

Northeast. Chistopher Murray admitted to killing his wife.

Christopher Murray admitted to killing his wife, Connie. /FACEBOOK

After a lie-detector test Saturday, Christopher Murray, 48, broke down and confessed to detectives that he strangled to death his 46-year-old wife, Connie Murray, last week after an argument, police said at a press conference Sunday.

Christopher became a suspect early in the investigation, said Lt. Philip Riehl.

"His wife was missing, but he contacted nobody — no friends, no family — to find out if she was with them. Instead he immediately went to hospitals and went to the police station," Riehl said.

Additionally, surveillance footage showed Connie power-walking outside Pennypack Park when a silver Ford Taurus pulled up alongside her. She popped her head in the window before walking away from the car.

Christopher's vehicle was the same model.

Riehl said they believe Murray intercepted Connie on her walk and the two entered the park and sat on some benches, where the two argued before Christopher strangled her to death.

Connie went walking in Pennypack Park around 9 p.m. on Aug. 5. Christopher reported her missing to police around 2 a.m. the following day. Connie's body was found behind two benches next to Crispin Playground, which is on the 3000 block of Holme Avenue, by a neighbor who was walking her dog around 6 a.m. Wednesday.

"I think it was more of a rage incident than premeditated," Riehl said, adding that the couple had been experiencing "ongoing domestic discord."

As police hunted Connie's unknown assailant, Christopher told Daily News reporters that his wife, a one-armed Army veteran, was "a beautiful woman; a loving, caring mother; a fabulous friend."

The couple had two daughters, ages 15 and 12.

"Obviously, there's no celebration in this case, but perhaps the people that play and exercise in the area of Pennypack Park can have a sigh of relief because there is not a predator lurking in the area," Riehl said.

Christopher, who was arraigned on murder charges, is being held without bail.

Quoted

"There were certain parts of his story that just didn't add up. ... It seemed almost like the 'concerned husband show.'"

Riehl, on why Murray was a suspect

Services

Funeral services for Connie Murray will be held at 9 today at John F. Givnish Funeral Home in Northeast Philadelphia.

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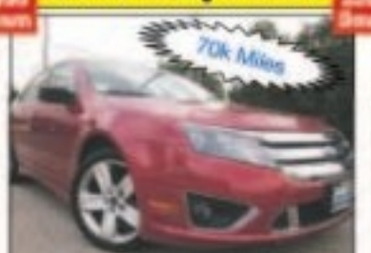

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LET'S TALK ABOUT THAT PEE SMELL

Ask SEPTA

JOE CASEY

SEPTA GENERAL MANAGER

Send your questions about SEPTA services and other issues about the transit agency to christina.paciolla@metro.us. They will be forwarded to Joe Casey who will answer them in a special monthly column here.

When will the Wayne Junction station be finished?

The renovation of Wayne Junction Station, originally opened in 1832, is approximately 83 percent complete. The project involves a complex historical restoration and is anticipated to be finished during spring of 2015. A longer-than-usual construction schedule had to be utilized because the station is in the heart of our Regional Rail system and we decided to keep the station open during construction for customers. The scope of the project includes new construction as well as renovations to the existing station.

New construction comprises high-level platforms, shelters and canopies, elevators, lighting, compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, police and revenue facilities, audio-visual public announcements and closed-circuit television, as well as renovations to existing passenger tunnels, stairways and structures.

In coordination with station facility improvements, SEPTA forces reconfigured the existing power, signals and track infrastructure within the station area in order to provide accessibility for Chestnut Hill East Line riders.

Quoted

Unfortunately, the issue does exist where people occasionally relieve themselves within our facilities, especially in the unpaid areas such as stairwells, station crossovers and the concourse area.

We all know SEPTA takes a lot of crap for the smelly stations. But seriously, what are you doing about this pee smell now that you have all this money?

Unfortunately, the issue does exist where people occasionally relieve themselves within our facilities, especially in the unpaid areas such as stairwells, station crossovers and the concourse area. The increase in the homeless population in Center City has made this problem more acute. SEPTA police will cite anyone caught in the act. When a foul or urine smell is detected, please contact Customer Service with specific details and we will promptly investigate any "smell" concerns. Our station porters clean, disinfect and deodorize their areas on a regular basis.

We are creating special dedicated mobile mini-wash-down crews who will thoroughly address known hot spots, such as stairways, areas around trash cans, etc., on a much greater frequency than our larger wash-down crews can currently accommodate. SEPTA has recently taken over responsibility for the City's concourses where this problem is most noticeable.

We plan on renovating these areas over the next few years, utilizing the new Transportation Funds, and hopefully the public will respect this investment.

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Stewart pulls out of race after he hits, kills driver

Dirt tracks. Tony Stewart hit a driver who had stepped out of his car in a local race Saturday.

NASCAR champion Tony Stewart dropped out of a race on Sunday, hours after fatally running over a driver at a dirt track in New York, casting a shadow over one of the sport's most accomplished and highly paid drivers.

Stewart, 43, faced a wave of criticism on social media when it appeared he planned to compete in the Sprint Cup series at Watkins Glen International, with a team official telling media that he was proceeding with "business as usual."

Tony Stewart / GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"There aren't words to describe the sadness I feel about the accident that took the life of Kevin Ward Jr. ... It's a very emotional time for all involved."

Stewart said in a statement

A sheriff in upstate New York investigating the death of the 20-year-old racer said they had not found any evidence so far of criminal intent in Saturday's incident and that Stewart was cooperating with authorities.

"At this very moment, there are no facts in hand that would substantiate or support a criminal charge or indicate criminal intent on the part of any individual," Ontario County Sheriff Philip Povero told a news conference on Sunday.

Stewart, a three-time NASCAR champion, is one of the few drivers who co-owns his team, Stewart-Hass Racing, a four-car outfit whose drivers include female standout Danica Patrick. REUTERS

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Africa: A 'magnet' for

Metro exclusive. Denis Sassou Nguesso, president of the Republic of the Congo, speaks on Africa's

Last week President Barack Obama hosted nearly 50 African heads of state for a three-day U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit, the first such event in the United States.

One of those guests stands out in a crowd. Denis Sassou Nguesso, president of the Republic of the Congo and two-time chairman of the African Union, is also one of the most experienced leaders in the global fight against terrorism.

As one the most respected politicians in the region, he is actively involved in bringing peace to this notoriously unstable region. Two weeks ago, he played a key role in an agreement that ended violence in the Central African Republic, and he is currently facilitating political dialogue between the opposition and President Joseph Kabila in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Leading the country with the second biggest rainforest area in the world, Nguesso is a vigorous advocate for environmental conservation.

But he is not free of controversy; Nguesso was criticized by the Washington for involvement in the constitutional change that would allow him to become president for the third time. Metro asked Nguesso about this controversy, his relationship with U.S. and the situation in his region.

ON PEACE

"I believe that it is time for Africa to take control of its fate by reacting more decisively and earlier. Africa must take its destiny in its own hands."

Denis Sassou Nguesso, president of the Republic

Do you think that Congo is or should be an important partner of America's?

President Obama's initiative to invite the leaders of African countries to a U.S.-Africa Summit, and the enthusiastic response from our side, answers your question. In Congo, we see three areas of cooperation.

1 American assistance in the training of and supply of equipment for our military and security forces to better combat the advances of international terrorism that threatens us. Make no mistake, we Congolese, we Africans, have to be responsible for our own security and, if required, fight for it. I would also add that in the area of regional and pan-African security, America could assist us all by effectively supporting a collective African response to these important challenges.

2 With some of the highest economic growth rates in the world, Africa should be a magnet for American investment and business. Congo is certainly no exception. It forms part of what I would like to call the world's new economic frontier.

The backbone of our modern economy is the oil sector, where Chevron plays an important role. But there are plenty of other opportunities: telecommunications, eco tourism and financial services, to name a few.

Our Atlantic port, Pointe Noir, has all the prerequisites for a major point of transit for the Central African area.

3 The time has come for a massive U.S.-African partnership in the field of education. Young Africans all over the continent yearn to attend American universities, whose reputation [places them] among the world's leading institutions.

China has recently made a number of high-profile investments in Congo. A short time ago, you visited Beijing. Is there room for an American business presence in your country.

Of course there is. We believe strongly in the benefits of American entrepreneurship and the ability of American business in general to help bring about economic development in our country. In Congo, as in Africa in general, there is room for everybody. We welcome American businessmen with open arms.

Many leaders proclaim democratic rule in their countries while human rights are being violated. What is the true state of affairs in Congo?

I will answer this question, but first I think that for most Africans, most Congolese, other problems seem far more important. Among these would be poverty, unemployment, lack of hope and future, a feeling of injustice and exclusion, frustration at inequitable divisions of natural resources, lack of educational opportunities; weakness of institutions of the state, threats of instability, unrest and armed conflict. Congo, like other African countries, is a young nation, thus it lacks the institutions and the strength of old, established states to effectively provide responses to these daunting challenges and problems.

Now to your question. Congo harbors no political or journalistic prisoners. Political parties and the press exercise their rights and freedoms without limitation. We have established a national watchdog for human rights, Observatoire National des Droits de l'Homme, in which all political parties are represented.

There is a debate whether to change the constitution of the country to allow a sitting president to run for a third term in office. Such constitutional change would enable you, subject to an election victory, to stay in office. Is this the "democratic way"?

First I want to point out that in 1992 I was defeated in a presidential election. I accepted this defeat and left the field to the winner. I therefore do not feel that I have to defend my democratic credentials. Now to your question, I believe in the sovereignty of the Congolese people, among whom the debate on this issue is freely taking place — and very publicly, too. If the people finally decide on a referendum on this matter, then who am I or any other politician to question this decision. It is not as if term limits signify a mark of democracy. Angela Merkel has just secured a mandate for a third period in office as chancellor. We all recall Margaret Thatcher's parliamentary victories, which three times secured for her the prime ministership of the United Kingdom.

I would like to add that the question for debate

Republic of Congo President Denis Sassou Nguesso arrives at the North Portico of the White House for a State Dinner during the U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit on Aug. 5. /PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

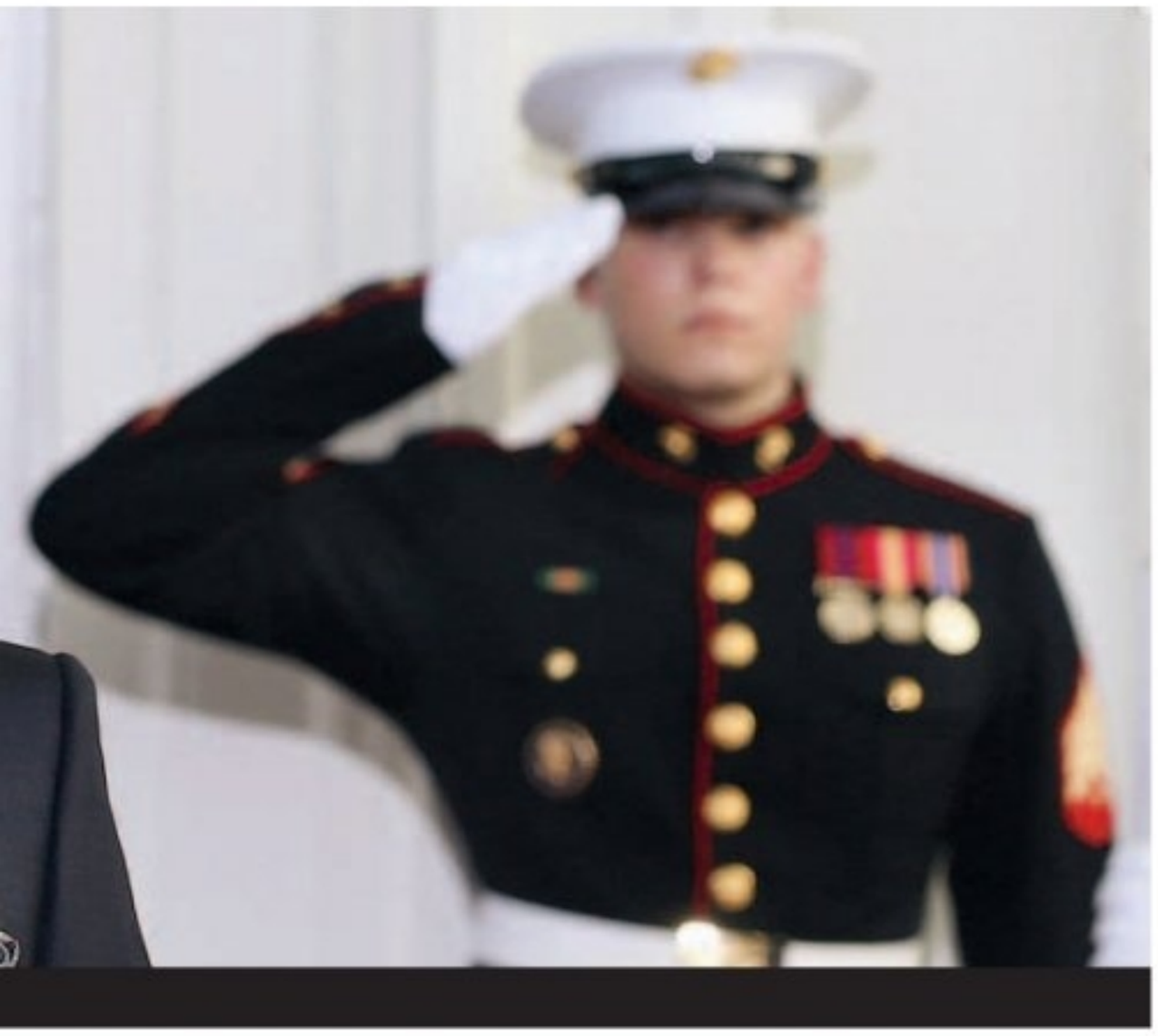
President Denis Sassou Nguesso wants the U.S. to help Central African states combat the war against terrorism, something he has undoubtedly discussed with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry.

ON EDUCATION

"The time has come for a massive U.S.-African partnership in the field of education. Young Africans all over the continent yearn to attend American universities, whose reputation [places them] among the world's leading institutions." Denis Sassou Nguesso

American business

relationship with the U.S., terrorism, constitutional controversies and environmental conservation.



and public decision today is merely whether a sitting president in Congo would be able to present his candidacy three times instead of two times. The question is not whether I should be shooed in as president. Under the circumstances, I have not even decided on my course of action in this regard.

Through your country's mediation, and intervention, in the Central African Republic, located to the north of the Congo, and your work to establish political concord in the Democratic Republic of Congo, to the south, you have gained a reputation as an effective promoter of African security? How do you view the state of peace and security in Africa — in particular, your region?
The inability of our continent to prevent crisis and reduce the number of bloody conflicts is aggravated by the humiliation of having to call upon the former colonial powers, first of all France, but also Great Britain, to solve them. The lack of logistic and modern military means is not the only cause. However, the most important thing is our own political will. In the past, there has not been enough of it, but now there is. I believe that it is time for Africa to take control of its fate by reacting more decisively, and earlier. Africa must take its destiny in its own hands.

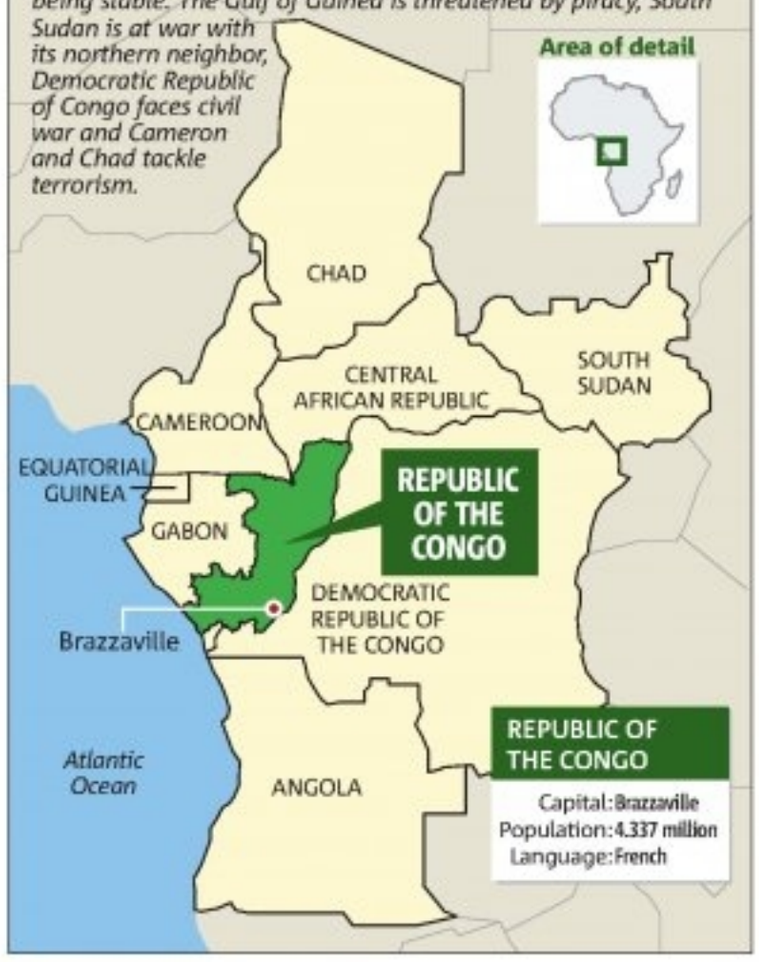
Congo's security, stability and national development is directly threatened from different directions. From the Gulf of Guinea, where piracy at sea has taken on worrying proportions, to north Cameroun, not far from our border, where terrorists belonging to Boko Haram have set up bases. Terrorists are also present in the Central African Republic, where we have deployed forces and where I, myself, act as a mediator in this country's internal strife. To the south, the Democratic Republic of Congo continues to experience much political instability, which over time repeatedly has translated into armed violence.

Congo hosts the second largest rainforest in the world. At the global environment conference "Rio+20" in 2012 you represented Africa, nominated by the African Union. What are your policy recommendations for the preservation of Congo's and Africa's ecology?
The Earth is in danger. Saving it is a battle in which all our states must stand on the front line. And each of our nations must face up to its responsibilities to do this and to do it now. For us, we know what the international community expects from us. First and foremost, it expects Congo, my country, to help save the vast Congo basin, which is the home to one of the largest terrestrial biodiversity conservation zones in the world. To this end, my country puts the sustainable management of forest ecosystems at the heart of its priorities and works tirelessly with a view to bringing about common policy and legislation for the forests of Central Africa. METRO

The Republic of the Congo. Rich with oil and biodiverse wildlife

Central Africa

Central Africa is home to 10 countries. Despite a recent ceasefire in Central African Republic, the region is still far from being stable. The Gulf of Guinea is threatened by piracy, South Sudan is at war with its northern neighbor, Democratic Republic of Congo faces civil war and Cameron and Chad tackle terrorism.



The Republic of the Congo, not to be confused with the Democratic Republic of the Congo, is sometimes referred to as Congo-Brazzaville. Though the nation is rich with oil, about 70 percent of its roughly 4.6 million people live in poverty. The country is the size of Montana and is known for its rivers, swamps and forest with biodiverse wildlife, as well as its high rates of HIV and AIDS.

After independence from France in 1960, the Republic of the Congo didn't face unrest until 1993 after disputes over parliamentary elections and then again in 1997 when a civil war broke out. A ceasefire treaty has been in place since 2003, but most of the militant rebels are still armed and active in the southern part of the country.

Today, the country is led by President Denis Sassou Nguesso after a controversial election in 2009. METRO

Biography: Denis Sassou Nguesso

Born and raised in a poor family, Nguesso rose through the military ranks and became one of Africa's most experienced leaders.

1943 Born in Edou (which was then part of French Equatorial Africa)

1960 Joined the army, then joined the paratroop regiment

1979 Became president

1986 Was elected Chairman of the African Union

1989 Was re-elected president, announced the end of Marxist policies and adopted capitalism

1992 Was eliminated in the first round of presidential elections

1997 After an outbreak of Civil War, peace was restored and Nguesso was sworn in as president.

1998 Helped begin a three-year transition process to democracy

2002 Was re-elected president after an election free of violence and competition — but two major candidates were prevented from running

2002 A new Constitution went into effect, granting the president a seven-year term instead of five years.

2006 Was elected Chairman of the African Union for the second time

2009 Was re-elected president in an election that the opposition boycotted

Congo by the numbers

61

Percentage of the country covered in lowland rainforest. The Congo Rainforest, which spans over six countries in western Africa, is one of the most biologically diverse regions and is the world's second largest tropical rainforest.

11

Percentage of the area of Congo that is ecologically protected

80

Percentage of government revenues from the oil sector. Petroleum is by far the Republic of the Congo's biggest export, accounting for 90 percent of total exports. The Congo has the fifth largest amount of oil reserves in sub-Saharan Africa.

Air strikes

US strikes Islamic State targets near Iraqi Kurdish capital Arbil

The United States conducted new air strikes on Islamic State targets near Arbil, the capital of Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdish region, the U.S. military's Central Command said on Sunday.

The strikes, launched by drone aircraft and U.S. fighter jets, were aimed at protecting Kurdish Peshmerga forces as they face off against Islamist militants near Arbil, the site of a U.S. consulate and a U.S.-Iraqi joint military operations center, Central Command said in a statement. REUTERS

A US F-16 / GETTY IMAGES

Islamic State militants kill 500 Yazidis, some buried alive

ISIL. The militant group arrived in northern Iraq in June and has routed Kurds in its latest advance.

A member of the Peshmerga forces takes part in clashes with Islamic State militants in Mosul, Iraq. / GETTY IMAGES

Islamic State militants have killed at least 500 members of Iraq's Yazidi ethnic minority during their offensive in the north, Iraq's human rights minister told Reuters on Sunday.

Mohammed Shia al-Sudani said the Sunni militants had also buried alive some of their victims, including women and children. Some 300 women were kidnapped as slaves, he added.

"We have striking evidence obtained from Yazidis fleeing Sinjar and some who escaped death, and also crime scene images that show indisputably that the gangs of the Islamic States have executed at least 500 Yazidis after seizing Sinjar," Sudani said in a telephone interview, in his first remarks to the media on the issue.

Sinjar is the ancient home of the Yazidis, one of the towns captured by the Sunni militants who view the community as "devil worshippers."

A deadline passed at midday on Sunday for 300 Yazidi families to convert to Islam or face death at the hands of the militants. It was not immediately clear whether the Iraqi minister was talking about the fate of those families or others in the conflict.

"Some of the victims, including women and children were buried alive in scattered mass graves in and around Sinjar," Sudani said.

The minister's comments could pile pressure on the U.S. — which has carried out air strikes on Islamic State targets in response to the group's latest push through the north — to provide more extensive support. REUTERS

Quoted

"In some of the images we have obtained there are lines of dead Yazidis who have been shot in the head while the Islamic State fighters cheer and wave their weapons over the corpses. ... This is a vicious atrocity." Sudani

Yazidis

The Yazidis, followers of an ancient religion derived from Zoroastrianism, are spread over northern Iraq and are part of the country's Kurdish minority.

- Many of their villages were destroyed when Saddam Hussein's troops tried to crush the Kurds during his iron-fisted rule. Some were taken away by the executed former leader's intelligence agents.
- Now they are on the defensive again. Tens of thousands of Yazidis fled for their lives after Kurdish fighters abandoned them in the face of Islamic State militants, and are trapped on a mountain near Sinjar at risk of starvation.

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Farm accident

Pennsylvania teen dies in manure pit

A 15-year-old drowned in a manure pit in Pennsylvania when a piece of farm equipment overturned and trapped him underneath, officials said on Sunday.

Police said the youth from the south-central town of Intercourse was driving a skid loader, a compact piece of equipment that helps farmers remove manure from barns, on Saturday when it accidentally toppled into the farm's 4-foot-deep manure pond.

The teen was buckled into the seat of the loader and could not escape in time, police said. He was pronounced dead at the scene after the machine was pulled out. REUTERS

Police shooting

Missouri teen shot dead had assaulted cop, police say

The shooting death of a black teenager that sparked anger in a St. Louis community was started by a fight between the victim and an officer in a squad car that quickly escalated, police said on Sunday.

Police said Michael Brown, 18, physically assaulted the officer from the Ferguson police, who then fired multiple shots at Brown after he left the car on Saturday. The officer has been put on administrative leave, St. Louis County Police Chief Jon Belmar said. REUTERS

Crowd

200

A crowd of some 200 people gathered at the site of the shooting on Saturday, some of them shouting "kill the police," a county police spokesman said.

Ebola

Liberian president apologizes to health workers

Liberia's President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf apologized for the high death toll among the country's health care workers who have fought an Ebola outbreak, which has killed nearly 1,000 people in three countries.

Johnson Sirleaf pledged up to $18 million for the Ebola fight, part of which will be given to health workers to help with insurance and death benefits, to fund more ambulances and to increase the number of treatment centers. REUTERS

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CULTURE

Talking point

Tea Leoni and sex addict David Duchovny officially splitsville

David Duchovny and Tea Leoni have finalized their divorce three years after splitting up for the last time — plus six years after Duchovny checked himself into rehab for sex addiction — and this one is going to cost the "Californication" star, according to Radar Online. The settlement, filed in New York City, calls for Duchovny to pay Leoni $40,000 a month in alimony plus an additional $8,333 a month in child support for their two children, 15-year-old Madelaine and 12-year-old Kyd. Duchovny also has to cover the kids' expenses for private school, tutoring, summer camp, extracurricular activities and college.

Beyonce takes to Instagram to quiet divorce rumors

Ever since Elevator Gate — when a security camera captured Beyonce's sister Solange Knowles attacking brother-in-law Jay Z during an elevator ride at NYC's Standard Hotel after the MET Gala in May — rumors have been flying that the couple's marriage is headed for a divorce, despite their joint "On the Run" tour.

Beyonce, who was strangely stoic through the brawl, is finally speaking out.

Last week, the notoriously private singer mentioned the fight in her new remix of "Flawless," featuring Nicki Minaj.

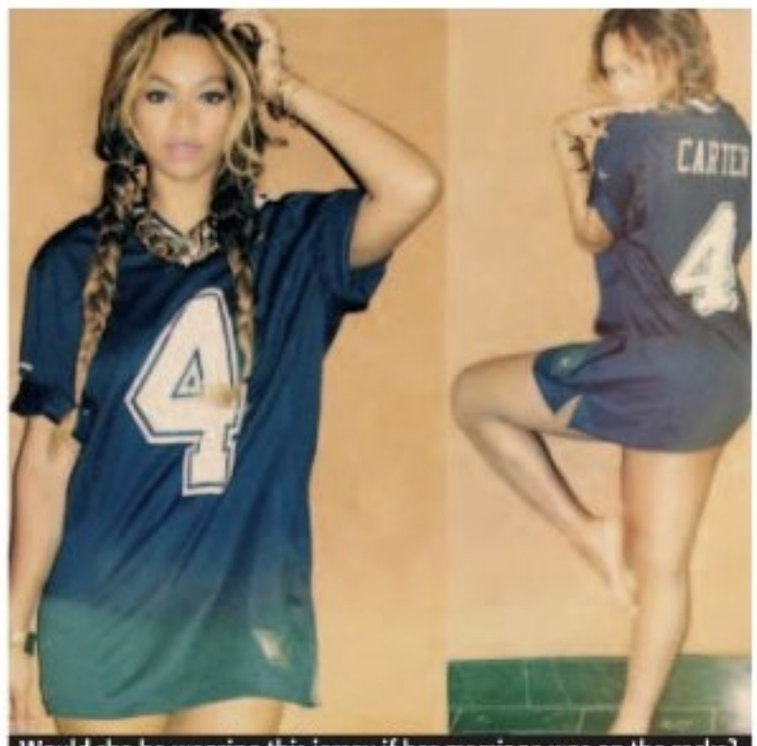
"We escalatin' up in this b— like elevators / Of course sometimes s— go down when it's a billion dollars on an elevator," she sings on the track.

And now the pop star is taking on the divorce rumors via social media.

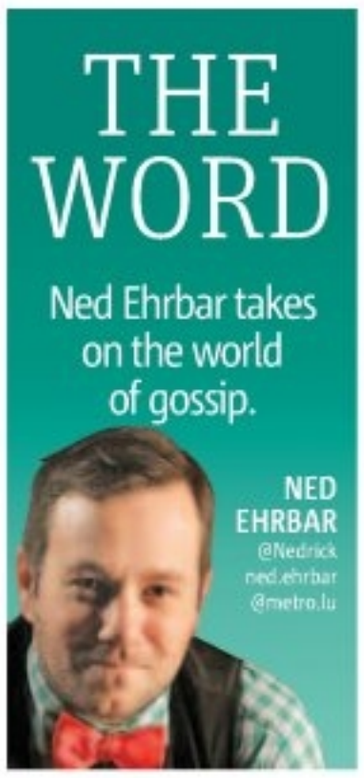
On Saturday, Bey Instagrammed front and back pictures of herself in a jersey that raised some brows.

While, yes, she looks #flawless and gorgeous, the way Beyonce usually does, all eyes were on the clothing. The front of the jersey featured the number 4, which is symbolic to the couple's relationship. Then, the second shot revealed CARTER written on the back of the jersey, which we can only assume is Beyonce's way of telling the world she's still Mrs. Carter — and proud of it.

TINA CHADHA



Would she be wearing this jersey if her marriage was on the rocks?
INSTAGRAM



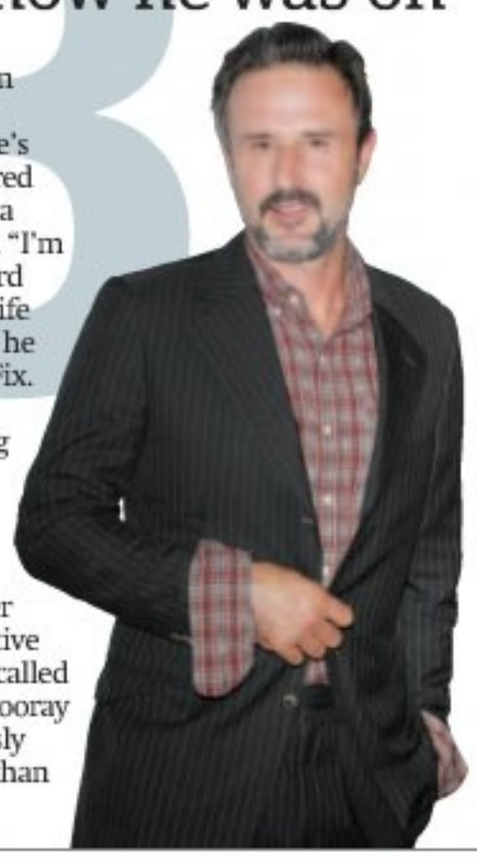
Zack Snyder defends boring old Aquaman

Snyder / GETTY IMAGES

A couple of radio hosts in Detroit were talking trash about Aquaman last week, so "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" director Zack Snyder decided to call in and defend him — proving once more that Aquaman can't defend himself and has no business in the Justice League. I kid! But seriously, folks, Snyder — who is in Detroit to film the superhero flick that clearly isn't taking up that much of his time — wanted to make it clear that Aquaman would be totally awesome in the movie should he end up in the movie, but Snyder isn't saying he'll be in the movie. (He'll be in the movie.) "I don't want to give anything away about the movie, but Aquaman has some cool abilities," Snyder said. "[He] could cut the flesh of Superman if they came in contact. … It's not to say that he's in the movie or anything like that, but he has the potential to be bad-ass." This does seem like a great way to get Snyder to spill more about the 2016 film than he was planning. Quick, someone say something mean about Robin!

Aquaman / PROVIDED

Arquette off wagon you didn't know he was on



One-time sober person David Arquette is not hiding the fact that he's been getting hammered lately, despite having a 4-month-old at home. "I'm not sober. It's very hard [to work in the nightlife field and stay sober]," he recently told Rumor Fix. That "probably" is a nice touch, suggesting more inquiry into the subject is called for. That working in nightlife bit? Oh, Arquette is part-owner of a couple of alliterative Hollywood hot spots called Bootsy Bellows and Hooray Henrys. He'd previously been sober for more than two years.

Elba may not (but may!) have a giant package

Idris Elba is just begging us to make rod jokes. We won't!
GETTY IMAGES

The Internet went into a frenzy recently when photos of Idris Elba on the set of his new movie seemed to point to a certain astonishing anatomical aspect of the "Luther" and "Thor" star. Sleuths insisted the images prove Elba is both ridiculously well-endowed and a member of John Hamm's anti-underwear club. But apparently it was all too good — or big — to be true, as Elba himself took to Twitter to clear things up. "The good news is I got a s—load of followers," he tweeted. "The bad news is that is a mic wire." But what a lucky mic wire, right?

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Matt Walsh on storm watch

Interview. The UCB funny man gets hit by some bad weather in "Into the Storm."

It seems strange for an effects-heavy movie like "Into the Storm" to include an actor like Matt Walsh — a comedy guy. He's one of the original members of Upright Citizen Brigade and plays the comfortably buffoonish Mike McLintock on "Veep." It was a weird project for him to take on, he admits, even if it was a challenge that he enjoyed.

"I always try to do stunts in comedy. So I've always felt like an action movie would be a blast," he confesses. In the film — about a tornado that rips through God's Country — he plays the tyrannical head of a documentary TV crew trying to get the perfect shot with their giant truck. "I get to drive a kick-ass vehicle. And it seemed a good arc for a character who seems like a curmudgeon to get some redemption."

Though the tornado itself was obviously fake, Walsh wasn't far from the real thing. "They had 400 mph fans blowing at us and people throwing leaves and sticks into the wind, or pelting us with golfball-sized hailstones," he recalls.

For a large stretch of the film, he and much of the cast have to hide in a sewer while the storm rages outside. "They had these towers that just ran cold water on us. You stayed wet for the rest of the day. We were in the sewers for weeks, where it was windy and dusty. Then we lived in a restaurant during the rest of the day — sort of like the Ninja Turtles."

Matt Walsh plays the curmudgeonly head of a weather documentary crew in "Into the Storm."/ WARNER BROS. PICTURES

Walsh doesn't feel that his character, while unpleasant and cruel, is a full-on monster. "I felt like I understood the guy. He's been on the road for years. I understood the stresses of his life," he says. "These crews operate like a military unit. He has to dispatch several vehicles during the storm and make sure everyone is safe, and make sure everyone's getting the shots. He has to get this because his career's on the line."

Small screen

Veeping

Walsh shot "Into the Storm" while on break from the hyper-profane "Veep." Like everyone in the cast, his character is a regular target for insults, some of them about Walsh's own physical appearance. But that's fine. "The first day we get the new scripts, the first thing I look for is the awfulest thing they've written about me," he says. "They're always really funny."

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A real thespian

The world's a stage

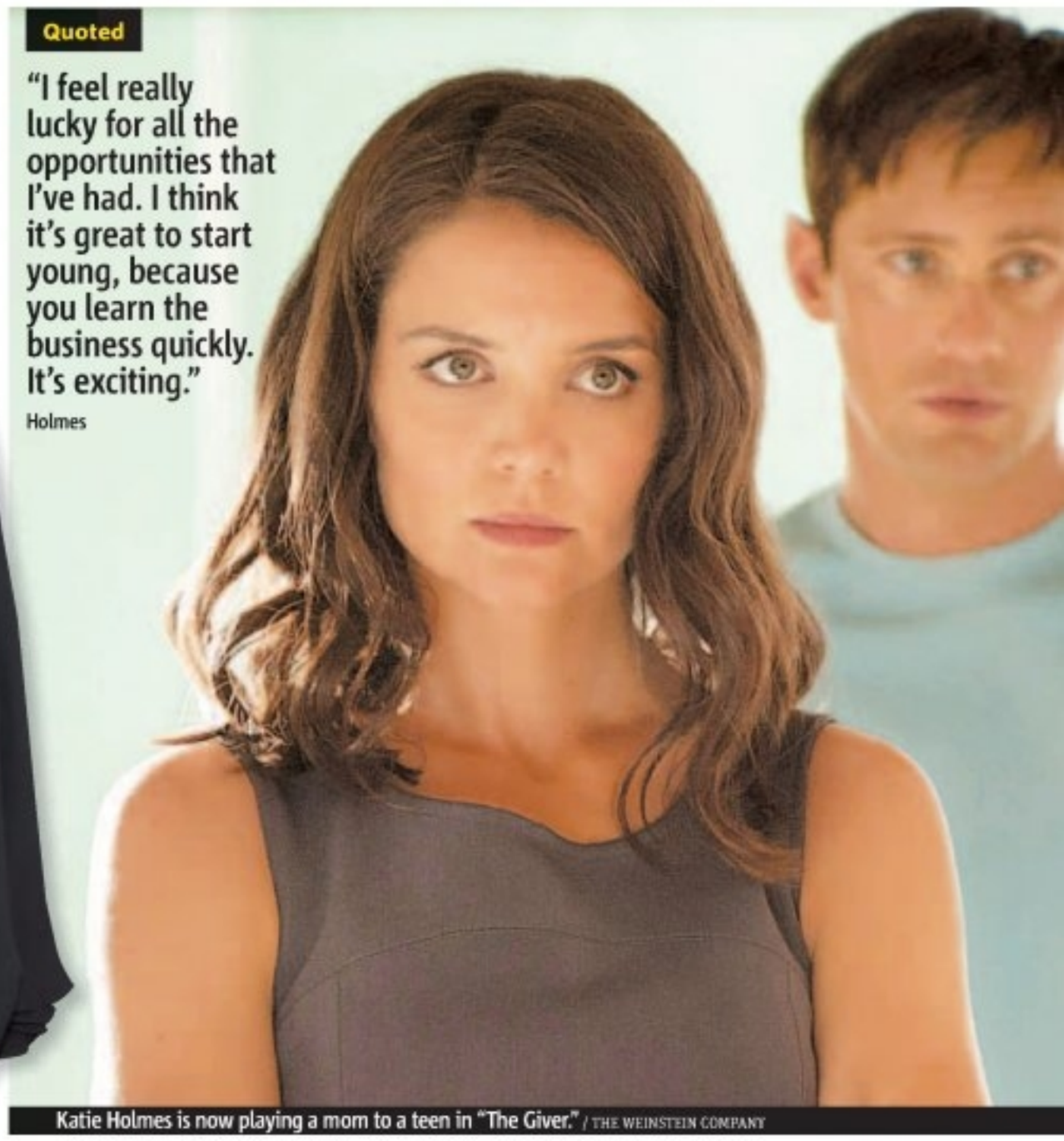
Speaking of Broadway, professionally Holmes has been a bit quiet since "Batman Begins" nine years ago — popping up in an odd mix of projects every year or two like "Don't Be Afraid of the Dark," the "Kennedys" television miniseries and Adam Sandler's dubious "Jack and Jill" — but fans closer to New York City know that she's been keeping plenty busy with stage work, recently playing on Broadway in "All My Sons" and "Dead Accounts." And if Holmes has her way, that won't be the end of it.

"It's just different. It's a different experience, but they're both very satisfying professionally," she says, comparing theater and film work. "With doing theater, you're constantly playing with other actors and you have to be really present, and that's really good practice. So then when you go and do a film, you're a little bit sharper — at least for me, that's what I've found it's been helpful for. And just the experience of being in front of that audience and the energy that you get from that is really quite something. ... While the show is going on, you feel like 'Tonight they're responding to this' or 'They're not responding to this,' and that changes the show." As for potential future roles? "I'd like to do 'The Cherry Orchard.' I'd like to do 'A Doll's House,'" she says.

Quoted

"I feel really lucky for all the opportunities that I've had. I think it's great to start young, because you learn the business quickly. It's exciting."

Holmes



Katie Holmes is now playing a mom to a teen in "The Giver." / THE WEINSTEIN COMPANY

LET'S GET WEIRD

Interview. Katie Holmes plays a character with no emotions in "The Giver."

Katie Holmes is the first to admit that she found the idea of playing one of the citizens in the sci-fi allegory "The Giver" a bit of a head-scratcher. "It was a really challenging role to play because it's this utopian society, this alternate reality. There's no emotion, there's no pain, there's a great deal of security and safety. But to play that as an actor is interesting because we like to emote," she says. "They don't have any emotions, but I think that they're human after all, so I always believed that the characters were capable of love. But it was interesting. It's interesting to be a part of this movie that poses questions such as that."

Of course, the pedigree of the project — based on Lois Lowry's award-winning, best-selling young adult novel — didn't hurt. "I heard about the project and I heard it was [director] Phil Noyce and Jeff Bridges and Meryl Streep," she says. "I was not familiar with the book, so I read the book along with the script and I thought it was a really powerful story."

While it's been 16 years since Holmes shot to fame barely out of her teens on "Dawson's Creek," the actress has no regrets about finding success so early. "I feel really lucky for all the opportunities that I've had. I think it's great to start young because you learn the business quickly. It's exciting," she says. And she still keeps up with her co-stars, she insists. "I just saw Michelle [Williams] in 'Cabaret.' She's amazing in it," Holmes says of her "Dawson's Creek" co-star's current Broadway gig.

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*National Research Council. (2003) Elder mistreatment: Abuse, neglect and exploitation in an aging America. Washington, D.C.: The National Academies Press

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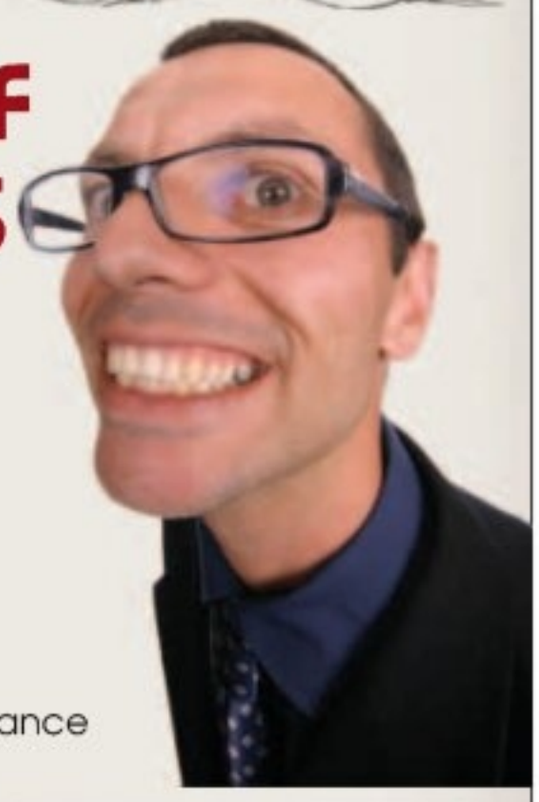

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Top 5 earners

1. 'Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles' $65 million
2. 'Guardians of the Galaxy' $41.5 million
3. 'Into the Storm' $18 million
4. 'The Hundred-Foot Journey' $11.1 million
5. 'Lucy' $9.3 million

The return of the "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" earned $65 million in ticket sales over the weekend, winning a battle with Marvel's outer space hit "Guardians of the Galaxy," which collected another $41.5 million.

"Ninja Turtles," a reboot of a franchise born in the 1980s, rang up another $28.7 million in international markets for a global debut of $93.7 million. Paramount Pictures, wasted no time in announcing a sequel. REUTERS

Remember these guys? The turtles admittedly used to be prettier. PARAMOUNT PICTURES

TV watch list

The women of "Mistresses" support each other. / ABC, RON BATZDORFF

DRAMA

'Mistresses'

April finally learns who her stalker is. Seems like those ladies are always being stalked by someone, doesn't it? **10 P.M., ABC**

REALITY

'Bachelor in Paradise'

The contestants are rocked to their core by the discovery that a candidate who was kicked off was involved with a crew member. Who would have guessed that someone would behave in such a scandalous manner on this show? **8 P.M., ABC**

COMEDY

'Whose Line Is It Anyway?'

"Top Chef" host Padma Lakshmi stops by to check on the proceedings of the relaunched improv comedy show. **8 P.M., CW**

MOVIE

'Taken'

Go back to where it all began and see the first time someone took something important from Liam Neeson, only to discover that he's a not-so-gentle giant. And don't worry: "Taken 3" is already on the horizon. **10 P.M., FXM**

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Googling yourself sick

Cyberchondria.
The Internet can be a health resource — or a problem.

At some point, maybe we all suffer a little bit of what's been dubbed "cyberchondria." After all, who hasn't looked up a pain, rash or other symptom on the Internet to self-diagnose? But a recent study estimated that the average American adult spends an astounding 52 hours a year looking up medical issues.

According to Dr. Sam Altstein, medical director of Beth Israel Medical Group, that statistic isn't surprising. "I see a lot of folks who've been looking up symptoms on the Internet. At least once a day, someone comes in and has Googled a symptom and in seconds they're told they have HIV or cancer or are about to die. It's mostly very, very wrong."

This type of self-misdiagnosis isn't exactly a new phenomenon: "Patients would bring in articles from the newspaper or a magazine — some still do," says Altstein. "But that was more of a background hum. Now with the Internet, it's more of a roar."

Someone who is spending an inordinate amount of time looking up symptoms on the Internet should see a doctor. He or she might have hypochondriasis, also known as hypochondria — excessive worrying about illness, which in itself is a sickness.

"That's a very real condition, and the Internet feeds on that," says Altstein. "We have to hear these patients out and guide them, but it's hard to combat phobias. [To them,] an anecdote is more powerful than a study with real evidence, or even a real diagnosis."

Hypochondriac or not, anxiety caused by worrying about possible illness adds stress to both the individual and the healthcare system.

"It impacts the patient's life if they're taking time off work and spending time on the Internet doing this. It adds unnecessary stress to their lives," says Altstein. "It drives up costs with extraneous tests. We can't blow off someone who comes in with a health concern. We need to at least do a physical exam or blood tests. They might get X-rays, which give unnecessary radiation."

Researching symptoms or illnesses on the Internet can sometimes help, however — especially for minor issues that can be treated easily at home, but only if the information is reliable.

"You have to look carefully at who's writing the advice," Altstein says. "If you just put a symptom into a search engine, then all sorts of non-medical sites or blogs come up. These probably won't have any research behind them. Choose medical sites like the Mayo Clinic's and Web M.D., which have a better perspective."

LINDA CLARKE
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

The average person spends 52 hours a year looking up medical issues on the Internet. / GETTY IMAGES

PLUS

Illness or anxiety

Getting help

If you think you have an unreasonable fixation with self-diagnosis via the Web, Altstein advises seeking help. "If a patient comes to me and is clicking endlessly on the Internet looking at illnesses, then this is a new anxiety disorder, probably affecting a person functioning normally. We have to manage it and address concerns. I advise a combination of SSRI [anti-anxiety] meds to manage the condition in conjunction with psychotherapy to find the underlying reason why they are so afraid of illness or obsessed with being sick."

Quoted

"Patients would bring in articles from the newspaper or a magazine — some still do. But that was more of a background hum. Now with the Internet, it's more of a roar."

Dr. Sam Altstein, medical director of Beth Israel Medical Group

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‘Educational limbo’: In debt with no degree

A new study looks at what many college dropouts have in common. / FUSE

Some college, but no degree

The study says many of the American adults who attended college but didn't graduate share similarities. Most of them are:

- Over 24 years old
- Have dropped out and re-enrolled multiple times
- Have enrolled in more than one semester

LIBBY DVIR
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Back-to-school. Many former students have attended college, but didn’t end up graduating.

Tens of millions of adults in the United States are trapped in a vicious cycle: They are saddled with student debt but never earned a college degree. A new study suggests some ways to help these former students who remain in what’s called “educational limbo.”

According to a report by the National Student Clearinghouse, 31 million Americans who enrolled in college over the past two decades dropped out without attaining a degree or certificate. Of those former students, 4 million — or just over 12 percent — have finished two or more years of higher education.

So who are these Americans who have some college and no degree? The National Student Clearinghouse provides some clues. Most are over the age of 24, have dropped out and re-enrolled from school several times and had been enrolled for more than one semester.

Doug Shapiro, executive research director of the National Student Clearinghouse, told U.S. News and World Report that the best way to prevent this situation would be to provide students with more flexibility in their financial aid packages. That means extending the time they can use the money they receive for their education and getting outreach programs to encourage students to finish what they’ve started.

These findings come at a time when President Obama and educational leaders nationwide have renewed their push for increased access to higher education. In addition to revamping the student loan program, Obama has expressed a goal of having the United States be home to “the highest proportion of college graduates in the world” by 2020.

The reports do strike a hopeful note by suggesting that with help, many former students can get back on track and finish their degrees. “This population represents a new enrollment opportunity,” the reports note. “[They] need only a nudge or an opening to pick up where they left off, complete a degree and add to the nation’s stock of educated adults.”

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Standardized testing. Is the Common Core testing too hard?

What's the best way to measure the proficiency of elementary and middle school students? Some educators say the new, tougher Common Core learning standards released last year are too tough on students.

The New York State's Department of Education recently released a sample of the questions from this year's test, the second year in a row that the new Common Core standards have been in place, reported WNYC.

The test continues to see complaints by teachers criticizing the tests for being too hard for the second year in a row — especially after seeing for themselves the nature of the Common Core questions.

"I'm a little surprised at the kind of language, the kind of grammatical structures, the kind of vocabulary that was in many of them," Jenny Tuten, an associate professor of literacy education at Hunter College, told WNYC. "Just being able to identify a change is a kind of sophisticated thinking about a short story, and then being able to determine which of those pairs of words is correct, that's hard."

Many teachers criticized the exam for the second year in a row. / PURESTOCK

A third grade teacher told the station that many of the most difficult math and English questions were excluded from the test questions released to the public. "There were challenging words like "chronometer." … So that's why I do wish they had added on one or two of the harder questions."

The questions released this year constitute about half of the entire test, as opposed to the quarter released to the public in 2013.

The slim selection of questions released last year were criticized widely. Forty-four states — including Pennsylvania — and D.C. have adopted the Common Core in recent years. RACHEL LEE

Quoted

> **"I'm a little surprised at the kind of language, the kind of grammatical structures, the kind of vocabulary that was in many of them."**
>
> Jenny Tuten, an associate professor of literacy education at Hunter College, told WNYC

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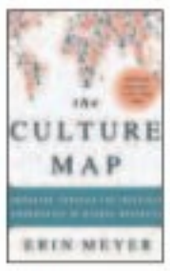
4 Ways to build a rapport with colleagues overseas

Learn how to avoid cultural conflicts with international business partners. **LAKSHMI GANDHI**

Because of the increased globalization of business, it's not unusual for many office workers to have colleagues who live in far-flung places around the world.



But constantly video-conferencing and emailing with people you may never meet in person has its challenges, especially if you know nothing about the cultural mores of your new colleagues. In her new book, "The Culture Map: Breaking Through the Invisible Boundaries of Global Business," author and business professor Erin Meyer provides readers with a blueprint for navigating the sometimes-rocky road of cross-cultural business relations.

Uncertain about how you can develop a successful partnership with a team of software engineers in India or a group of accountants in Sweden? A good manager can make things run smoothly despite being oceans away.

1 Take the time to build a personal relationship

"The United States is the most task-oriented culture in the world," says Meyer. "The No. 1 mistake that Americans make when they're trying to influence people in other parts of the world is that they don't realize that other countries are more relationship-oriented than we are."

American managers, she says, will complain that they'll send an email to their overseas colleagues with an urgent message and then get frustrated when they receive no response. This might not have happened had they taken a few minutes to chat beforehand.

2 Know when to call and when to email

"If you can talk over the phone in order to build up that initial connection before you move to email, that's always better," says Meyer. "And even better than that is if you can do Skype, because once people have seen your face, then you can use that opportunity to get to know them a little bit."

3 Try to break the ice

Meyer shares a story of how one older manager broke the ice with his team of young Indian programmers. "He thought long and hard and suddenly realized, 'what I love, that these young people also love, is music,'" Meyer says. So he had his team trade music recommendations. That simple back-and-forth helped build a strong working relationship.

4 Acknowledge your mistakes

Unintentionally making an offensive remark happens, but there are ways to fix the damage. It is key to acknowledge your clumsiness and be open to change. Meyer suggests saying something like, "It just didn't occur to us that people in other parts of the world might be more focused on giving a softer relationship approach to things." Admitting your error goes a long way.

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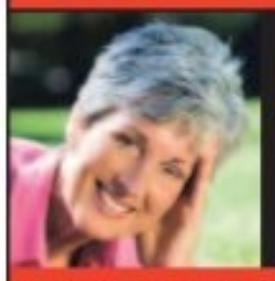

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Horoscope

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. Don't lag when it comes to important paperwork. You will find shortcuts as well as interesting options that will be beneficial.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. Emotionally charged issues will develop if you are overly sensitive to what others say. Seek an objective opinion from someone you trust.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. It's impossible to reach a decision if uncertainty prevails. Don't be coerced by anyone who puts pressure on you.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. You will gain satisfaction if you complete unfinished business. Enlist help from people who have the means.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. Travel will give you insight into a dilemma. A financial investment isn't likely to turn in your favor. You can make headway if you keep plans a secret.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20. Be assertive. You can get what you want if you are persistent. You need to make your voice heard if you wish to win support.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18. Criticism will cause you to doubt your abilities. Someone with an ulterior motive will try to prevent you from getting ahead.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. Money is in the picture. A contract, gift, settlement or financial opportunity is present. Use this chance to make an move.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. You may end up as a mediator during a family disagreement. Be diplomatic and try to find a solution that everyone can be happy with.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. Someone is likely to disappoint you. Present your plans to make progress. Help will arrive from an unexpected source.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. Maintain focus, or you could be sidelined by someone trying to manipulate you. Highlight your strong points.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. You will face some delays and frustrations. Don't give in; an alternative route will get you where you want to go. It's the journey that counts. BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Sudoku: Easy and hard

5		2		4		9		
					6	2		
					5	3		1
9			4		7		5	2
7								6
4	1		2		9			7
2		9	6					
		4	1					
		8		9		7		4

1			6			2		5
2		5			9			6
	7			2	5		9	
				7				
	6	3				1	8	
				6				
	3		2	9			5	
7			1			6		9
5		9			6			3

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters

No good choices in eliminating terrorists

Reading letters about the recent war in the Middle East, I am reminded that our country was also pulled into war by a sneak attack. Japan bombed our people and our military hardware at Pearl Harbor in 1941 and we, in turn, ended that war by dropping atom bombs on two densely populated cities. It wasn't that we wanted to kill civilians. It was a decision forced onto us. Every scrap of information I see tells the same story about Israel. In the future, to avoid bringing death to its subjects, Hamas would do well to not start wars to begin with.

PAUL SIMONS, VIA EMAIL

Israel can't justify its actions

Why is Israel trying so hard to justify overreacting to the situation? Hamas has fired 1,000 rockets and there is one Israeli citizen injured/dead. Meanwhile, Israel has killed or murdered an innocent child at least once per day on average. And the most shocking is that the West is supporting this. I am just a truck driver, but it seems to me Israel is breeding terrorists by killing random innocents without regard to justice.

WILLIAM GORE JR., VIA EMAIL

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Crossword

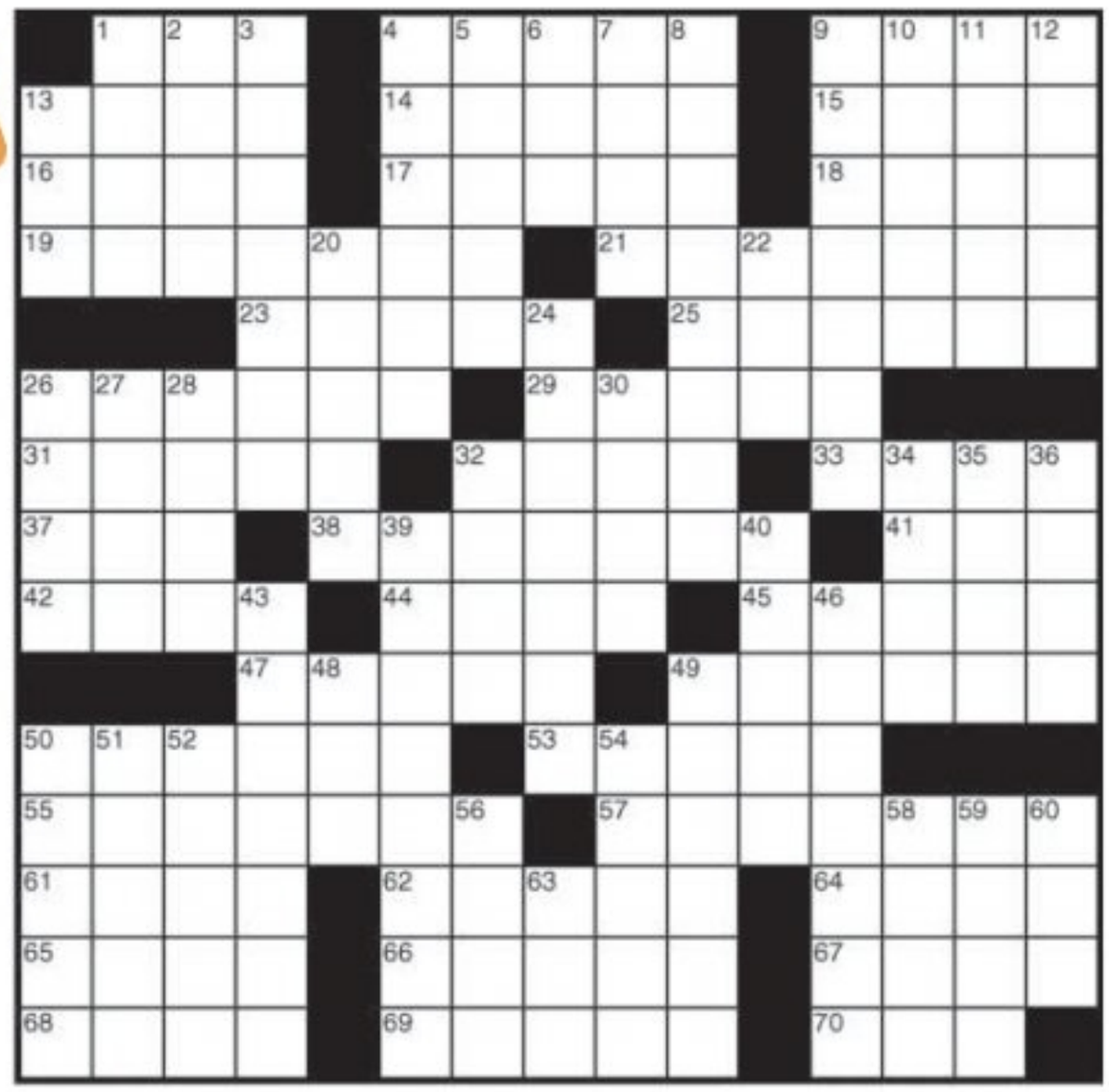
Across

1 Family MDs
4 Bucks
9 Pack it in
13 Paris cop
14 NAFTA opponent
15 "Oops!" (hyph.)
16 Moose or elk
17 Tour de France competitor
18 Garage contents
19 Type of dancing
21 Mountain chains
23 Should
25 Put into words
26 Stoops
29 Licorice herb
31 Cut some slack
32 Subatomic particle
33 Centipede feature
37 Mexican Mrs.
38 In the minority?
41 Plop down
42 Calligraphy fluids
44 Calculator work
45 Bug out
47 Frat quarters
49 Anagram for minute
50 Open, as a sleeping bag
53 Recital pieces
55 — riche
57 Gumshoes
61 Kind of straits
62 Foot the bill
64 Thunder
65 Eurasian range
66 Oklahoma tribe
67 Goofs up
68 Underwater shockers
69 Had status
70 Pentagon grp.

Down

1 Unbridled delight
2 Quay
3 Cratchits' benefactor
4 Bits of holly
5 Instruct
6 Equator segment
7 Departs
8 Painting a zebra
9 Spat
10 Lieutenant under Kirk
11 Specks
12 Them there
13 Rx monitor
20 Cake-pan type
22 Grunts of surprise
24 Went bad, as meat
26 He loved Lucy
27 Hold down a job
28 Ms. Dinesen
30 Webster or Beery
32 Pod contents
34 Hairy twin
35 Hand over
36 Dele's undoing
39 Mimic
40 Privileged few
43 Clears snow
46 Made certain
48 Flamenco shout
49 Thawed
50 Exaggerated
51 Bete —
52 Not built-up
54 Common practice
56 Bear in the sky
58 Riding-mower brand
59 — Rock Cafe
60 Almost-grads
63 Don the feedbag

Weekend's answer



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3 SPORTS

Graham slam

Graham is 'big time'

After Eagles practice at Franklin Field Sunday, linebacker DeMeco Ryans has nothing but compliments for teammate Brandon Graham. "Brandon is Brandon," Ryans said. "He's always been a big-time pass rusher, that's his natural gift. You can't really line up one-on-one against Brandon Graham and not get beat."

Eagles draw energy from Franklin Field

NFL. The Eagles shared a special day with 28,000 fans at their historic former home.

For Eagles wide receiver Jeremy Maclin, suiting up and running routes in his first game in nearly two years is a pretty great feeling. And it's a feeling that drove him during the Birds preseason opener, 34-28, last Friday night.

"I think it was more emotional for me," Maclin said after the Eagles completed a public practice at Franklin Field on Sunday. "The fact I haven't played for so long, it just felt good. I was happy, I was excited, I am ready to move forward."

It was a nice follow-up act for Maclin, to be able to take the field in front of more than 28,000 fans on UPenn's campus alongside Eagles alum, who were honored before the session.

"This is Philly," Maclin said, shortly before a wave of the arms elicited a screaming ovation from fans hoping for autographs in the Franklin Field stands. "This place means so much to so many people. I think once you become an Eagle, you kind of inherit it. I am happy and privileged to come out here and practice."

Josh Huff impressed fans at Franklin Field, fresh off his game-changing performance against the Bears on Friday. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

The specialness of the afternoon was not lost on Eagles, young and old, as they took to the turf in hallowed halls that once saw the Eagles win their last NFL championship back in 1960.

"It's a special place, you don't get that everywhere," Eagles linebacker DeMeco Ryans said. "The tradition of the Eagles, the fans, for the fans to come out and support us like the did today, they came out in great numbers. It's fun to see and it's cool to come out here and zap some of that energy from the fans. Going throughout training camp, it kind of gets long, but they come and really pick us up."

The highlight of the practice was the when the first team defense and offense ran 11-on-11 drills at the end of practice. Undrafted free agent Ifeanyi Momah caught a Nick Foles pass in the corner of the end zone to much fanfare. Newcomer Darren Sproles and tight end Zach Ertz also impressed with the first team.

"I have never been here to Penn's campus," Ertz said. "It's a beautiful campus, and it's probably the closest to the Ivy League a lot us will ever get. Philly fans are unbelievable. Twenty-eight thousand for a Sunday practice is pretty impressive, it was great to be here."

EVAN MACY
@evan_macy
evan.macy@metro.us

Quoted

"I think it was great for us younger players to get that feeling of what it was like to play here. We never saw games here, but I think it was good for the fans too to come out and watch us in a place like this, and it was great showing, so I hope we can do it again next year."

Matt Barkley

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NFL. Eagles' Barkley still shooting for No. 2 quarterback position

Nick Foles and Matt Barkley combined to throw three interceptions in the Eagles' preseason opener. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Matt Barkley had a trial under fire last season when he jumped into action as Eagles' starting quarterback after injuries to Nick Foles and Michael Vick.

He has a year of experience under his belt now and is starting to get more and more comfortable with head coach Chip Kelly's offense. Could he leapfrog Mark Sanchez and earn the bona fide backup role?

"Who knows what can happen," Barkley said after the Eagles finished their public practice at Franklin Field. "I think If I play my best, something can happen. I have to do as much as I can do to be consistent and move the ball down the field."

Barkley threw Friday's only Eagles' touchdown pass against the Bears, (a 14-yard strike to David Fluellen) but he also threw an interception and was not particularly accurate, completing passes at a 7-for-16 mark. He has a lot of work to do, but his teammates know he has talent.

Zach Ertz, a quarterback's best friend at tight end, thinks an abundance of talent under center is never a negative, and he sees a lot of potential in all three Birds signal callers.

"Luckily for me, there is a lot of talent at quarterback," Ertz said. "Mark [Sanchez] has a lot of playoff experience, Nick [Foles], his stats speak for themselves, and Matt [Barkley] was very good in college. I think my ability to get open and their ability to be successful throwing the ball has been easy for me and them." EVAN MACY

Quad-quarterbacks

Here's how the four Eagles QBs fared against the Bears in the preseason opener Friday night.

- **Nick Foles:** 6-for-9, 44 yards, 2 INT
- **Matt Barkley:** 7-for-16, 73 yards, TD, INT
- **Mark Sanchez:** 7-for-10, 79 yards
- **G.J. Kinne:** 8-for-10, 88 yards, sacked once

Union rages

Union continue playoff push after weekend win vs. Impact

After a slow start, the Union are suddenly among one of the hottest teams in the MLS after a win Saturday over Montreal.

The team is 3-1-3 in their last seven games and continues to eye a playoff spot.

"Since Jim Curtin took over, he told me exactly what he wants me to do on this team," Sebastian Le Toux, scorer of two goals in the most recent Union win, told CSN-Philly.com. "I felt pretty good."

The Union will travel to Houston next Saturday looking to stay hot. METRO

Phillies make claim

Phillies claim Williams off waivers

The Phillies are a team in need of some big league starting pitching depth, following a season-ending injury to Cliff Lee and trade of Roberto Hernandez.

They made a move to add some Sunday, picking up 32-year-old veteran Jerome Williams from Texas.

To make room on the 25-man roster, the Phils designated Sean O'Sullivan for assignment. He was due to start Tuesday against the Angels, which is where Williams is expected to make his Phillies debut.

In nine MLB seasons, Williams has gone 44-52 with a 4.51 ERA. METRO

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Howard can still showcase power

MLB. Ryan Howard has impressive power numbers despite a low average.

When Ryan Howard was tackled by Cody Asche and Domonic Brown after delivering a walk-off single to beat the Mets, 7-6, Jimmy Rollins stood a few feet off of first base and smiled. J-Roll wasn't surprised, but Phillies fans were taken aback that Howard and his teammates rallied from a five-run deficit to prevail.

Prior to the game, Rollins, who has played the role of Nostradamus, told Metro to watch out for the Big Piece, who has been disrespected of late by fans and the media. Twice within a week, Chase Utley was walked intentionally to face Howard. Each timea Howard has come through with a game-winning hit.

Rollins said it reminds him of the Phillies' glorious run, in particular game four of the 2009 NLDS against the Rockies. Howard exclaimed, "Just get me to the plate, boys" in the ninth inning against Colorado. The hulking first baseman drilled a two-run double, which tied the game and helped the Phillies en route to a second consecutive NL pennant.

"He's been saying that a lot lately," Rollins said. "'Get me to the plate.' I think he said it the other night [before Howard hit a game-winning grand slam against the Houston Astros] or the night before that. He'll say, 'Somebody get on base for me, it's got to be worth more than one run.' Thats his mentality, and it's a good mentality. He believes he's going to go deep."

Quoted

"The batting average and some other numbers aren't there this year, but the RBIs are there. You can't debate that."

Jimmy Rollins, on Ryan Howard this season

Despite hitting .218 and being benched, Howard appears to have his swagger back.

"Yes, I've never lost my confidence," Howard said. "I believe I'm going to come through."

Despite the worst numbers of his career, Howard is coming through in the clutch. Howard has 24 go-ahead RBI this season, which is second only in the NL to Giancarlo Stanton.

"Ryan has done it so many times before," Utley said. "I'm not surprised at all. He has a knack for driving in runs. He's always had that knack."

Howard is third in the NL with 72 RBI for a last place team, which has difficulty putting runners in scoring position.

"He has a lot of pride," Utley said. "He also can still hit and drive in runs. He's a huge part of our team."

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Howard is on pace to drive in 98 runs despite a batting average hovering above the Meodoza Line. / GETTY IMAGES

Phillies 7, Mets 6

Howard walkoff caps Phils comeback win

Ryan Howard leads the majors with three walkoff hits. His most recent came with two outs in the bottom of the ninth Sunday in a tie game with the Mets.

Howard hit an RBI single to right field to drive in Marlon Byrd in the 7-6 win. The heart of the Phillies lineup came through in the clutch for Philadelphia. Trailing 6-1 in the sixth, Domonic Brown started the comeback with two-run double.

Marlon Byrd / GETTY IMAGES

An inning later, Chase Utley showcased his wheels with a two-RBI triple in the seventh to cut the lead to a single run.

In the ninth, Byrd hit a pinch-hit single that plated Cody Asche to set up the Howard game-winner.

The Phillies wouldn't have trailed by as much as they did if Kyle Kendrick had pitched better. The veteran's ERA went up to 4.88 as he allowed all six runs (five earned) and 10 hits in a no decision.

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0106 Edna McCrea, 0318 Rashi T Smith, 0341 Shalayna Singleton, 1304 Harry Heron III, 2220 James Upshaw, 2611 Antoinette Hubbard, 3308 Gregg Gibbon, A4215 Amina Z Jackson, A4216 Amina Z Jackson, A4412 Tony Porter

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 # 1206 Christopher Nyame, # 1236 Josettie Allen, # 2108 Charmaine Smith, # 2212 Sean David, # 2502 Sherelle Shawell, # 2503 Tanya Ross, # 3207 Marquia Fortune, # 3313 Reginald Boatright, # 3350 Deana Ramsey, # 3515 Jacqueline Harper

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#1518-Lisa Camacho, #1130-Summer Morgan

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Presbyterian Village
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Full-time, Part-time & Pool Opportunities
Day, Evening & Night Shifts

Please bring resume or work history and copy of current CNA certification. Meet Broomall team members and leadership.

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If unable to attend, apply online at:
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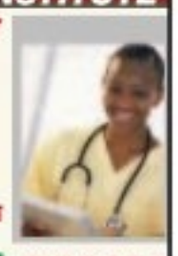

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